MESSAGE

OF THE

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,

COMMUNICATING,

In compliance with a resolution of the Senate of the 25th instant, correspondence relative to the course of trade between the United States and France while France and Mexico were at war.

MAY 31, 1864.—Read, ordered to lie on the table, and be printed.

To the Senate of the United States:

In reply to a resolution of the Senate of the 25th instant, relating to Mexican affairs, I transmit a partial report from the Secretary of State of this date, with the papers therein mentioned.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

WASHINGTON, *May* 28, 1864.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, May 28, 1864.

The Secretary of State, to whom was referred the resolution of the Senate of the 25th instant, requesting the President "to communicate to the Senate, if not incompatible with the public interest, any correspondence between the Secretary of State and the Mexican minister in relation to the course of trade between France and the United States while France and Mexico were at war with each other, in articles supposed to be in derogation of the rights of neutrals; and, also, all other information in possession of the government relative to the present condition of affairs in the republic of Mexico, and especially upon the attempt of any European powers to overthrow republican institutions on this continent with a view of establishing monarchical forms of government in their stead," has the honor to report, that, following the natural division of the resolution quoted, he submits herewith copies of the correspondence which has taken place with the minister of Mexico, in relation to articles of trade, since that communicated to the Senate with the message of the President of 20th January, 1863, and which has been printed as Senate Executive Document No. 24, 3d session 37th Congress, reserving for a future occasion a report upon the latter branch of the resolution, which calls for voluminous papers, of which copies must be prepared.

Respectfully submitted.

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

The PRESIDENT.

List of enclosures.

1. Mr. Romero to Mr. Seward ..... January 20, 1863.
2. Mr. Seward to Mr. Romero ..... January 21, 1863.
3. General Canby to Mr. Seward ..... February 17, 1864.
4. Mr. Seward to Mr. Romero ..... February 19, 1864.
5. Mr. Romero to Mr. Seward ..... February 20, 1864.

Mr. Romero to Mr. Seward.

[Translation.]

MEXICAN LEGATION IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
Washington, January 20, 1863.

The undersigned, charge d'affaires of the United Mexican States, has the honor to address himself to the Hon. William H. Seward, Secretary of State of the United States of America, to inform him that he has received a communication, dated the 17th of this month, from the Mexican citizen Camilo Cámara, now sojourning in New York, and of which he encloses a copy. From this communication it appears that the custom-house at New York refuses to clear, for the port of Sisal, a cargo of powder, lead, and flint-stones, intended to sustain the war which the government of Yucatan is waging against the revolted Indians of that peninsula.

As all that has come to the knowledge of the undersigned is, that the exportation of arms to Mexico is the only thing which the government of the United States has prohibited up to this time, he could not less than be surprised at seeing that the prohibition is being extended to the other articles contraband of war which Mexico is in want of, even though she does not intend to make use of them in the war which the republic is sustaining against the Emperor of the French.

The undersigned would be thankful to the honorable the Secretary of State if he would be pleased to inform him, if it be possible, what are the articles, besides arms, the exportation of which to the ports of Mexico, which are in the possession of the authorities of the republic, this government has prohibited.

The undersigned would also be pleased to know if the honorable the Secretary of State would have the goodness to inform him whether this government proposes to clear, or not, the cargo to which the said letter of Mr. Cámara refers.

The undersigned avails himself of this opportunity to renew to the Hon. Wm. H. Seward, Secretary of State of the United States, the assurances of his most distinguished consideration.

M ROMERO.

HON. WILLIAM H. SEWARD, *&c., &c., &c.*

[Translation.]

NEW YORK, *January* 17, 1863.

HONORED SIR: I, the undersigned, a Mexican citizen, a native and a merchant of Yucatan, at the present time sojourning in this city for the purpose of commercial pursuits, as is customary, most respectfully do make known to you that I have been much surprised that the custom-house in this place should not permit me to ship, in either an American or a foreign vessel, a small quantity

of powder, lead, and flint-stones, which my consignees in this city, Messrs. Riera & Thébaud, merchants thereof, have endeavored to ship for my account on an English vessel, and destined to Sisal, for the use of that state. You cannot but know, sir, that we have no other means of supplying ourselves with these articles, unless it be from the United States, whence they have always been carried, and at the same time you know that in our country it is indispensable to us to have powder and other articles of war, owing most especially to the desolating war now being carried on against us by the rebellious Indians. Independently of these considerations we have to call your attention to the fact that, while we are prevented from a lawful trade in these articles of war, it is said they have permitted here the exportation of effects for the French, who are actually waging war against our republic.

My aforesaid consignees have written upon the subject to the War Department at Washington, offering to give a security until we shall send a certificate from Yucatan, in which it is certified that these articles have been landed in, and are for the use of, that country, and to the said letter, of which I enclose you a copy, no answer has as yet been received. A disposition so arbitrary and illegal, preventing the shipment of certain articles to Mexico, not only does injury to the different states of the republic, by depriving them of the revenues which these articles would produce, and necessary to their consumption, but, in a very direct manner, to the commerce and government of Yucatan, which requires them to oppose the rebellious Indians. I do not see what lawful objection there is to prevent a traffic guaranteed by the treaties which exist between the two countries; and considering that my reasons are well founded, and that your co-operation in this case is made necessary, I take the liberty to request you to take the trouble to attend to this, my petition, with the least possible delay, inasmuch as the vessel which will carry my invoice is now being loaded, by applying for this purpose to the War Department to obtain the permission for shipping these effects hence for Yucatan, with the guarantee, if they desire it, of the respectable signatures of Messrs. Riera & Thébaud, as has been done in other similar cases.

The interest you may take in this matter, as our worthy representative, is the only means of favorably settling this business for us, and I do not doubt that you will be pleased to extend your protection to me.

In the event of your needing my address, you will address me to the care of Messrs. Riera & Thébaud, and meanwhile I have the honor to place myself at your service.

Your very obedient servant,

CAMILO CAMARA.

Señor Don M. Romero,
Minister from the Mexican Republic, in Washington.

Mr. Seward to Mr. Romero.

Department of State,
Washington, January 21, 1863.

Sir: In reply to your note of yesterday expressing surprise at the refusal of the custom-house authorities to clear for the port of Sisal a cargo of powder, lead and flint-stones, and desiring to be informed what are the articles the exportation of which has been prohibited by this government, I have the honor to state that, on the 20th November last, an executive order from the President of the United States directed "that no arms, ammunition or munitions of war be cleared or allowed to be exported from the United States until further order."

I am not aware that this order has been relaxed or rescinded, nor do I perceive the propriety or expediency of remitting it under existing circumstances.

I avail, &c., &c.

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

Señor MATIAS ROMERO, *&c., &c., &c.*

General Canby to Mr. Seward.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Washington City, February 17, 1864.

SIR: The Secretary of War instructs me to submit to you the enclosed letter and accompaniments from T. Lemmen Meyer, San Francisco, soliciting, for himself and others, permission to ship blasting powder from that port, for the use of designated mines in Mexico, and to request the expression of your opinion upon the propriety and expediency of granting the privilege asked for.

I have the honor to be, your obedient servant.

ED. R. S. CANBY,
Brigadier General, A. A. G.

The SECRETARY OF STATE,
Washington, D. C.

Mr. Meyer to Mr. Stanton.

SAN FRANCISCO, *January* 16, 1864.

SIR: I beg to accompany two petitions, signed by me, entreating you to allow the exportation of a certain amount of powder for the use of two mines in Mexico in which I am interested. The damages that would accrue from the want of powder are so well known to your honor that I abstain from mentioning them, and I will limit myself to state, for the sake of not occupying your valuable time, that the French consul in this city having no objection to its exportation, and the French minister in your city consenting to it, (as he will most likely do,) the only party which, in my opinion, remains with the right to either allow or prohibit its exportation is the United States government.

Allow me to offer you, honorable sir, my most sincere respects.

T. LEMMEN MEYER.

Hon. EDWIN M. STANTON,
Secretary of the United States War Department, Washington, D. C.

SAN FRANCISCO, *January* 16, 1864.

DEAR SIR: Most respectfully and earnestly do we request of you permission to make monthly shipments of twenty kegs of blasting powder to the "Agua Grande" copper mine, located at Sonora, Mexico, whereof W. Randall is superintendent. Said blasting or mining powder to be in kegs, holding 25 pounds each, purchased from Edward H. Parker, San Francisco, agent of the Hazard Powder Company, New York, and to be shipped by us to the port of

Guaymas, Mexico, on board the steamer Sierra Nevada, or John L. Stephens, of B. Holladay's line.

If in the affirmative, please answer by telegraph.

Yours, respectfully,

T. LEMMEN MEYER.

Hon. EDWIN M. STANTON,
Secretary of the U. S. War Department, Washington City, D. C.

Note by the Department of State.

Permits were also requested from the War Department, in letters of the same tenor as the foregoing, to make monthly shipments of powder to mines in Mexico and Lower California, by the parties whose names appear annexed, and which letters are dated January 15 and 16, 1864.

T. LEMMEN MEYER.—Twenty kegs for Pannoa silver mine, in Sinaloa, Mexico.

L. B. BENTLEY & Co.—Eighty kegs for Guadalupe silver mine, in Chihuahua, Mexico. Twenty kegs for Bella Vista gold and silver mine, in Lower California.

EGGERS & Co.—Ten kegs for Ida silver mine, in Lower California. Ten kegs for Henriette and Sophie gold and silver mine, in Lower California. Ten kegs for El Tesoro silver mine, in Lower California.

Mr. Seward to Mr. Romero.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, February 19, 1864.

SIR: I have the honor to communicate herewith a copy of a letter addressed to me on the 17th instant, under instructions from the Secretary of War, by Brigadier General Canby, together with a copy of the papers referred to, relating to an application from Mr. T. L. Meyer, of San Francisco, for permission to ship some blasting powder, intended for mining purposes, from that port to Mazatlan.

Under existing circumstances I conceive it necessary that such an application should first be submitted to the belligerent powers now exercising authority in Mexico, and beg therefore to refer the subject to you as the representative of one of those powers.

I avail, &c., &c., &c.,

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

Señor MATIAS ROMERO, *&c., &c., &c.*

Mr. Romero to Mr. Seward.

[Translation.]

MEXICAN LEGATION TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
Washington, February 20, 1864.

MR. SECRETARY: I have received the note which, under yesterday's date, your excellency was pleased to address to me, accompanied by a communication sent to you by Brigadier General Canby, together with various copies of applications made by Mr. T. L. Meyer, of San Francisco, California, that permission

may be accorded to him to ship mining gunpowder to the ports of Guaymas, La Paz, and Mazatlan.

You consider that, under existing circumstances, it is necessary for you to recur "to the belligerent powers exercising authority in Mexico," in order to be ready to come to a decision on this point, and as the representative of one of those powers, you are pleased to ask for my opinion.

Without expressing formally any opinion on this occasion as to the necessity of consulting both belligerent parties, which in your judgment exists, whenever there may be question of the introduction into Mexico of an article which may serve the uses of warfare, and falling back upon what, in this respect, I have had the honor to state to you on other occasions, I must now say that, for my part, I do not think there can be any impropriety in carrying to the ports indicated the mining gunpowder to which these applications refer.

I avail of this opportunity to reiterate to you the assurances of my very distinguished consideration.

M. ROMERO.

Hon. WILLIAM H. SEWARD, *&c., &c., &c.*

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